

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV .. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like me, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable television and can offer more programming choices and, most importantly, all local TV channels in every market in the U.S. By providing local TV channels everywhere, this merger will make satellite television a strong alternative to cable in our community. Throughout the country, people will now be able to turn to satellite TV to access their local news, weather and community information, in addition to a comprehensive package of national video programming. But just as exciting, the merger will bring the availability of affordable high-speed Internet service by satellite to over 40 million Americans who don't have high-speed Internet access. These tremendous benefits to consumers won't happen without the merger. Satellite-delivered Internet service will bring an affordable and competitive alternative to cable modems and DSL to consumers in big cities, small towns and rural areas alike. This will give me a competitive choice for Internet access and will be especially advantageous to rural communities where cable modems and DSL are not likely to be available anytime in the near future.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to lend your support to this merger. I Normally don't lend support of a merger but in terms eliminating duplicative offerings offered by both Dbs Provider while in turn for those who don't currently subscribe to Direct tv would gain Because of being able to have the opportunity to subscribe to NFL sunday ticket I've Personally have researched the idea of offering Local into Local If both providers were to provide Local as separate companies It would force one or both companies to discontinue a huge portion of the programming for example HBO TNT In order to make Room for Local (all 210 Dmas) making satellite a less attractive option and as a result could possibly force satellite out of business due to disgruntled customers making a stink because of a channel being dropped

However I would like to see Some Dmas merged so more people can get Local now Designated Market areas ought to be based on what is carried through your cable system Or Based on what can be recieved on an off air antenna also so that more people can at least be able to receive their nearest dma not necessarily part of your local channel package on satellite for example

In my area the nearest Local City comes under Philadelphia

But Neither Provider Carries York Lancaster-Lebanon-Harrisburg due to bandwidth constraints

Both do However carry certain cities duplicatively and some exclusively

Here Are The stations  
Carried On Blue Ridge Cable of Ephrata Pa

\*\*3 kyw Cbs (Philadelphia)  
6 Wpvi abc (Philadelphia)  
8 Wgal Nbc (Lancaster)  
10 Wcau Nbc (Philadelphia)  
15 Wlyh Upn (HarrisBurg)  
17 Wphl wb (Phila)  
21 Whp Cbs (HBG)  
27 Wthm Abc (HBG)  
29 Wtxf Fox (Phila)  
33 Witf PBS (HBG)  
49 Ind Wgcb Religious (Red Lion(York))  
\*51 Ind wtve (Shop@Home)Carried On comcast of Lancaster (Reading)  
\*\*57 Wpsg \*\* Carried on Blue Ridge Only  
Southern Berks Portion of Blue Ridge customers also recieve an independent  
station wfmz69 out of allentown

I certainly Hope This clears up why I would urge your support for this merger and Consider a measure to merge dmas in nearby areas so more people will be able to recieve the closest Local into local until such time that maybe space will permit more of those cites to be added I once again totally support this merger because all Dma's should be carried when possible

I'll close with 2 other example of crazy O

Sincerely,

Tom Williams  
531 Ridge Ave 1e  
Ephrata, PA 17522